

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CU-02 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

-----040217Z 112822 /15

R 031209Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3144

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, CH, IN

SUBJECT: TIBET: DALAI LAMA'S REACTION TO NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY
STORY

1. MOST DELHI PAPERS CARRIED A BRIEF REUTERS ITEM ON MAY 2 WHICH, CITING AS ITS SOURCE THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, QUOTED A "SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIAL" AS SAYING THAT CHINA WOULD WELCOME THE RETURN OF THE DALAI LAMA AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THE REUTERS ITEM WAS FROM HONG KONG AND DATED MAY 1. ACCORDING TO REUTERS, THE NCNA SAID THAT THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, NGAPO NGAWANG-JIGME, TOLD A VISITING JAPANESE DELEGATION THAT THE DALAI LAMA'S GROUP WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IF THEY SINCERELY RETURN HOME AND STAND ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE. NGAPO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "ALL PATRIOTS ARE WELCOME, WHETHER THEY COME FORWARD EARLY OR LATE. SO LONG AS THEY SINCERELY RETURN TO THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND AND STAND ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE, THE GOVT AND PEOPLE WILL CERTAINLY MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR WELL-BEING".

2. THE DALAI LAMA'S OFFICE IN DELHI QUICKLY ISSUED A RESPONSE ON
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MAY 2. THE PRESS RELEASE, CARRIED BY MOST DELHI PAPERS MAY 3, STATED THAT THE NCNA ARTICLE "ATTEMPTS TO PLACE WORDS IN THE HORSE'S MOUTH BY WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA TO RETURN TO TIBET". IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT "AFTER 18 YEARS OF RUTHLESS SUPPRESSION AND TOTAL VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, IT NOW BOTHERS THEIR CONSCIENCE AND REVEALS THE ABSOLUTE FAILURE AND BANKRUPTCY OF THEIR EXPANSIONIST POLICIES, OF SUBJUGATION AND

COLONIALISATION OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE". THE PRESS RELEASE CONCLUDES BY APPEALING TO "THE NEW LEADERS OF CHINA FOR REASON, RATIONALITY AND MORALITY AND TO PUT AN END TO THE UNNECESSARY SUFFERING AND MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE TIBETAN PEOPLE". "WE ALSO APPEAL TO ALL FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO SUPPORT THE JUST AND HUMANE CAUSE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA OF TIBET AND HIS PEOPLE".

3. IN REPORTING THE REACTION OF THE DALAI LAMA'S OFFICE TO THE STORY, THE MAY 3 "INDIAN EXPRESS" POINTS OUT THAT NGAPO NGAWANG-JIGME "IS NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO CAN ENDEAR THEMSELVES TO THE DALAI LAMA", BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF THE DALAI LAMA'S MINISTERS IN TIBET AND LATER WAS APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF TIBET
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REPATRIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE06359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770155-0701
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770599/aaaadiem.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5dd6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2655985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIBET: DALAI LAMA'S REACTION TO NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY STORY
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, SOPN, CH, IN, (DALAI LAMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5dd6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009